REMARKS

Reconsideration of this application in respectfully requested.

Claims 8 and 10 have been amended by including the limitations of claims 5 and 6, which have been cancelled. In addition, references to claim 3 and 6 in claims 8 and 10 have been deleted.

The Examiner required restriction of the claims as follows:

I. Claims 1 and 35 drawn to a transgenic mouse comprising disruption in H2 class I gene and H2 class II gene and a functional HLA class I or a class II transgene and to an isolated cell of the mouse.

II. Claims 8-10 and16 drawn to a method of simultaneously identifying the presence of one or more epitopes in a candidate antigen and to a method of identifying the presence of an HLA DR1-restricted T-helper epitope in a candidate antigen.

III. Claims 11-15 and 17-21 drawn to an isolated antigen comprising an HLA DR1-restricted T-helper epitope and to an isolated antigen with HLA-A2 restricted CTL epitope.

IV. Claims 22-30 drawn to a method of comparing the efficiency of T-helper cell response induced by two or more vaccines, to a method of comparing efficiency of T cytotoxic cell response induced by two or more vaccines, to a method of simultaneously comparing the efficiency of T-helper cell response and T cytotoxic cell response induced by two or more vaccines and to a method of simultaneously determining the humoral response, and T helper cell and T cytotoxic cell response to vaccines in with one or more antigens.

V. Claims 31-34 drawn to a method of optimizing two or more candidate vaccine compositions for administration to a human and to a method of whether a vaccine poses a risk of induction of an autoimmune disease in humans.

Applicant elects the claims of Group II, claims 8-10 and 16, which are all of the claims readable on the elected invention.

The Examiner noted that claims 8, 10, 16, 22, 24, 26, 28, and 34 depend on claim 3, which has been canceled. Applicant has corrected the dependency.

The Examiner also noted that claims 8, 10, 16, 22, 24, 26, 28, and 34 depend on claim 6, which has been canceled. The dependency of these claims has also been corrected.

The Examiner stated that the inventions of Groups I-V lack unity of invention because even though the inventions of these groups require the technical feature of using a test subject of a "transgenic mouse comprising disrupted H2 class 1 gene; a disrupted H2 class II gene and a transgene", this technical feature is not a special technical feature as it does not make a contribution over the prior art in view of WO 03/006639 A1, WO 02/059263 A2 and/or Benmohamed et al (200, Human Immunol 61:764-779), which teach the use of a transgenic mouse that is disrupted in H2 class I gene, a disrupted H2 class II gene and a functional class I or class II gene. Applicant courteously traverses the Examiner's findings and reserves the right to contest the findings in the event the claims are rejected over these publications.

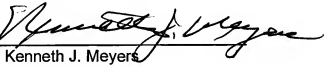
In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, Applicant respectfully requests formal examination of this application and the timely allowance of the pending claims.

Please grant any extensions of time required to enter this response and charge any additional required fees to Deposit Account 06-0916.

Respectfully submitted,

FINNEGAN, HENDERSON, FARABOW, GARRETT & DUNNER, L.L.P.

Dated: December 14, 2011

By: 

Kenneth J. Meyers
Reg. No. 25,146
(202) 408-4033
Fax: (202) 408-4400
E-mail: Ken.Meyers@finnegan.com